

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 2-9 and 11 are merely objected to, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see specification at page 10, lines 19-23; see also FIGS. 1, 2, and 4-8).

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 2 and dependent claims 3-9 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Therefore, independent claim 11 should be in condition for allowance.

The title was objected to, and a new title required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. A new title has been provided. Approval of the new title is respectfully requested.

As amended, claims 1 and 10 recite an imaging device including a solid optical member, such that a space between a convex mirror and an optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material (see specification at page 10, lines 19-23; see also FIGS. 1, 2, and 4-8).

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,157,018 to Ishiguro et al. ("Ishiguro"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Ishiguro reference does not teach or suggest a solid optical member in which a space between a convex mirror and the optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner alleged that the cylinder 3 of Ishiguro is considered "solid" because it is made of "a composite of transparent glass or plastic" (see Final Office Action at page 3, last paragraph to page 4, first paragraph – citing column 2, lines 66-67 of Ishiguro).

However, Ishiguro does not teach or suggest an imaging device including an optical member which is solid, such that a space between a convex mirror and the optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material.

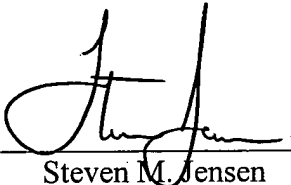
For at least the reasons discussed above, the Ishiguro reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claims 1 and 10.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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